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## Efforts to Secure a Provincial Steel Industry

**Provincial Committee to go to Ottawa to press claim for aid—Two proposals—Important meeting at Victoria addressed by prominent citizens.**

The people of British Columbia are becoming thoroughly awake to the necessity for an establishment of a steel industry in British Columbia. What steps necessary are to be taken and along what lines it is safest and best to

proceed is not clearly fixed in the public imagination, but from an important public meeting held last week in Victoria two definite ideas were proposed. One was for the provincial government to employ the services of qualified mining engineers and metallurgists to examine and report upon such iron deposits as exist in the province and the necessary elements required for the production of pig iron, and that these engineers be independent; also that the provincial government remove all unreasonable restrictions to the immediate development of the iron ore resources. Second, that the Dominion government be urged to take immediate action that will lead to the establishment of a steel industry in British Columbia. The exact method or the exact proposal is not mentioned in the idea presented, but the meeting had some notion that the Dominion government could be approached on the basis of either the direct bonus to the industry or by a bonus of pig iron production. As a result of the meeting a committee composed of Mayor Todd, of Victoria; Mr. R. R. Neild, general manager of the Victoria Machinery Depot; Mr. J. F. Bledsoe, of Alberni; Mr. H. S. Fleming, chairman of the Executive of the Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir), and Mr. Frank Higgins, barrister, of Victoria. This committee, representing Vancouver Island, it is hoped, co-operating with the committee of the Mainland, will unite and go to Ottawa and present the petition having in end the establishment of a steel industry.

At this meeting a large number of prominent citizens took part, among whom were Mayor Todd, Mr. C. T. Cross, Mr. Frank Higgins, Mr. R. R. Neild, Mayor Gale of Vancouver, Mayor Vance of North Vancouver, Alderman Morton of Nanaimo, Mr. W. A. Jamieson, Mr. E. H. Hicks-Beach of Cumberland, Mr. Bledsoe and Mr. J. H. Cunningham of

Vancouver. Each took up some phase of this question and pressed home to those present the need for concerted action. Although the meeting was held in Victoria and the wish of those present was that the industry should be established on Vancouver Island, a large number took the ground that what was most important was to see that a steel industry was established in British Columbia, and its location could be determined at a later date. If the engineers and those charged with the responsibility of investigating and reporting on the location should decide that Victoria or some place on Vancouver Island should be selected, then the Mainland of British Columbia would support that. If, on the other hand, it was decided to locate the industry in or near Vancouver, then the Vancouver Island interests would support that.

Along these lines Mayor Gale of Vancouver spoke. "We have got to wipe away forever," he declared, "the dividing line that has existed between Vancouver Island and the Mainland in the past. I believe the day is here when industrial development can only be brought about by the co-operation of both sections. It has got to be a strong pull, a long pull together. I am glad indeed that I was able to attend this meeting, because I feel that it has sounded the keynote of a new era for this province, an era of concerted action. We have all got to put our shoulders to the wheel and push hard. We have got to work together if British Columbia is to attain that position which we feel confident

she will ultimately have—the premier province of the whole Dominion."

Mayor Gale asserted the need of the day to be a government of community builders. "We must have our government know," he said, "that we mean business in this campaign, and that we will not be satisfied with half measures."

He dwelt briefly on the progress being made in the Lower Mainland in bringing the iron question to the fore, and said there was but one voice—that the province's future lay in the maximum development of its resources and that now was the time to start the ball rolling. It was the people's duty, as Britishers, Canadians and British Columbians,

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